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General Summary of News,

EUROPE.

The last arrival from Madras has furnished us with files of the Courier, Morning Herald, Morning Post, and Morning Chronicle, up to the 23rd of March inclusive, and a copy of the Plymouth Telegraph of the 27th, bringing the London News down to the 25th of the same month, the latest date of English Papers that have yet reached the Settlement.

In examining these, we shall confine ourselves to a short and general analysis of their contents, in the order of their dates, and reserve the Parliamentary Debates, and other equally voluminous details, to follow consecutively.

March 8.—The Morning Chronicle of this date contains an Address from Mr. Hobhouse to the Electors of Westminster after the close of the poll, in which he bears his defeat nobly, and betokens neither a change of sentiment, an abatement of zeal, nor a depression of hopes.

Mr. J. H. Dalrymple has an Address in the same Paper to the Freeholders of the County of Edinburgh, offering himself to supply the place of the former representative, Sir George Clerk, who has been appointed one of the Lords of the Admiralty.

A meeting of the Proprietors and Lessees of Coal, in the west of Scotland, took place by Advertisement at Glasgow, on the 1st of March. Robert Gray, Esq. of Carntyne in the Chair, and their Resolutions are printed in the Morning Chronicle of this date, the close of which says:—

“That strongly impressed with these sentiments, this Meeting will resist, by all constitutional means, the imposition of any Tax upon Coals; and co-operate with all other individuals and public bodies interested, in organizing a vigorous and effectual opposition to the measure.”

A Meeting of the Mayor, Corporation, and Inhabitants of Bedford took place on the 5th of March, in that town, John Cocke, Esq. Mayor, in the Chair, for the purpose of petitioning the two Houses of Parliament to revise the Criminal Statutes; when, after some excellent observations from different members of the Meeting, it was resolved that the petition proposed by the Rev. Dr. Hart, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Hillyard, should be adopted, and Lord Holland be solicited to present it to the House of Lords, and Lord George William Russell, and William Henry Whitbread, Esq. the Members for Bedford, to present it to the House of Commons.

The London Gazette of the 6th of March announces officially from the Crown Office, the return of the Honorable George Lamb for Westminster, in the room of Sir Samuel Romilly, deceased; and of Thomas Philipps Lamb, of Mountfield Lodge, Esq. for the town and Port of Rye, in the room of the Right Honorable Charles Arbuthnot, who being chosen a Baron for that town and port, and also a Burgess for the Borough of St. Germain's, had made his election to serve for the latter.

On the 2nd of March, the largest and most respectable Meeting of Catholics that ever took place in Ireland was held at Dublin, for the purpose of expressing in the most marked manner, the gratitude of the Catholic body to the Protestants who have lately come forward to petition Parliament on their behalf. The Earl of Fingall was called by acclamation to the Chair, and it appeared that all parties forgot their past dissensions, and became re-united on the gratifying occasion on which they had assembled.

After some brilliant speeches, and resolutions, Mr. O'Connell concludes an Address of some length to the Meeting with these remarkable words:

“But Irishmen, Protestants as well as Catholics, have at length awakened from their lethargy, and a new era of happiness, peace, and prosperity, opens on the union. No longer shall crowds of adventurers, disheartened by the gloomy prospects held out to them in this country, be found emigrating to the inhospitable wilds of America, in search of that independence and happiness which they should find more perfectly and securely at home. The co-operation of our Protestant Brethren may not give us Emancipation, but they have given us something better—a union of sentiment, love, admiration, and interests. Let Catholics continue to deserve, and Protestants to reward with their good wishes and confidence, and the motto of Ireland in future be—“God and our Native Land!”

March 9.—In the Morning Chronicle of this date, we observe an Advertisement to the following effect:—

“Mr. Lacy and Mrs. Bianchi Lacy have the honour to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and their Friends in general, that, previous to their leaving England, it is their intention, by permission of the Viscountess Hampden, to have their Last Concert by Subscription, at her Ladyship's House, Green-street, Grosvenor-square, on Monday, the 22d of March, on which occasion the principal Performers in London have promised their assistance, being the last time they will ever have the honour of Singing in England.—Subscriptions, one guinea each, will be received by Mr. and Mrs. Lacy, No. 14, Thayer-street, Manchester-square.”

It would appear, therefore, that the account which reached this country by private Letters some time since, of these distinguished Singers being about to visit India, is probably correct. Knowing as we do the state of public taste here, on the Fine Arts in general, and on Music in particular, we tremble for the fate of those who may have been seduced by representations to quit England for India, for falseer long ago have been to have led to such a determination.

A long debate in the House of Commons on the 8th, is reported in this Paper, on the Pearyn Election, in which such a disclosure is made of corruption and bribery as would be scarcely credible but upon the most solemn and well supported testimony, Sir Charles Burrell, and Sir James Mackintosh

were the principal speakers:—and the indignation of the latter is expressed with all the warmth of the purest patriotism and eloquence.

It is known to our readers, that doubts have been entertained by some very celebrated medical men of the present day, as to the contagious nature of the Plague; and those who denied its power of being communicated by contact to others, held the Quarantine laws to be wholly unnecessary, and were advocates for their immediate abolition. On this subject the Morning Chronicle has the following paragraph.

"Of the numerous Committees appointed to sit in the House during the present Session, few are likely to be engaged on a question of greater importance than the one moved for by Sir J. Jackson, for investigating the doctrine of contagion and the Quarantine Laws.—That any regulation imposing restrictions on the free march of mercantile operations is likely to prove somewhat injurious to trade, we are not prepared to deny; but before such regulations be removed, or even relaxed, it ought to be clearly proved that they have originated in error. For, unless it be shewn to the satisfaction of every person acquainted with the nature of contagious diseases, that nothing of the kind exists, and that the plague cannot be imported in vessels from Turkey, the simple consideration of any shackle imposed on the Levant trade being likely to injure that trade, will not be sufficient to persuade the well-thinking and independent Members of the House to make any alteration in the Quarantine Laws, from which we have derived our preservation from the plague for upwards of a hundred and fifty years. We are aware that some doubts have been recently thrown out as to the validity of the doctrine of contagion, arising, as some Member has stated it, out of the late Parliamentary investigation on the prevailing typhus fever of London. But the absence of all contagion from this or any other disease, which may have been erroneously considered as contagious, cannot for a moment weigh against the overpowering evidence of many centuries, of many men, and of many facts; proving, in the most conclusive manner, that the plague can be carried from one infected port to another, where no such disease exists—as, for example, from Smyrna to London. We do not see how any fancied analogy between two diseases, essentially different, like the typhus fever and the plague, can lead to the adoption of any doubts as to the reality of contagion in the latter. The question to be considered by Sir John Jackson's Committee, which we understand sits this week, is of so much importance, and likely to affect our very existence, that we sincerely trust to see it taken up by some persons properly qualified for the task. The question reduces itself, indeed, to this—Whether we shall continue to enjoy the most complete security from the importation of the plague; or see ourselves exposed by way of experiment, and for the sake of a few merchants, to the ravages of that dreadful calamity?"

A claim on our attention to matters of high local interest has interrupted the progress of our task, but we shall resume the chain of our European intelligence in progressive order, in our next.

AFRICA.

Zanzibar.—We gave a detailed account some days since of the loss of the ship Margaret, Capt. Georgeson, on the coast of Africa, and his having reached Zanzibar in safety and taken passage from thence to Bombay. We learn that at that period there were twenty British ships lying at Zanzibar, one nearly destroyed, for the Havannah, trading in slaves; and that ten other ships were expected there, on the same errand, as their licence to trade in slaves extended, as they insisted, to the end of December 1819.

On board the largest of these vessels—1,500 slaves were already collected for traffic. The ordinary price given was

22 dollars a-head, and the price they would bring in the Havannah was reckoned at 800 dollars each.

This fact, of ships from Havannah trading for slaves to Zanzibar, cannot be known, we should think, to the advocates for the abolition of this abominable traffic in England, as we do not remember even an allusion to it in the various Papers that have appeared on the subject.

The settlement of Zanzibar belongs to the Imaum of Muscat, whose port and whose subjects have been notorious from time immemorial for piracy and slave trade, as the records of India and the recollection of all who have had commerce with the Arabian and Persian Gulphs will testify. The disclosures that were made of the abominable practices of this port, on the trial of the ship Sulimany, under English colours, captured with slaves on board, by the Honorable Captain Maude, in His Majesty's ship Favorite, in 1816, excited a degree of horror in the Court at Bombay, where the trial took place. Yet the Arab Chief who has dominion over the mart of Zanzibar in Africa for the supply of the Havannah and even Lima with slaves, and whose own port Muscat is the grand emporium of human flesh for all the countries of Mekran, Persia, Turkey, and Arabia, which are supplied with labourers from among the negroes of Africa, and concubines from among the stolen and captive females of Abyssinia,—this Imaum has been supplied with frigates, built, equipped, and armed from the arsenal at Bombay; and recently with a line of battle ship of 64 guns, completely fitted for sea, and capable either of defending these marts of iniquity from foreign interference, or of making new conquests of ports, and forming new markets to encourage the kidnapping and fettering some unborn thousands of miserable Africans!

We need not pursue the parallel between the annual tributes of the British Government in Europe to the Deys of Tripoli and Algiers, so famed in the annals of slave-dealing and piracy, and that of the facts just stated. There cannot be, we are certain, any sense of inferiority in either case; for the British empire in India is as vast, when compared with that of an Arab Imaum, as the power of England is when compared with that of an Algerine or Tripolitan Dey.

We have seen the result of a negotiation at the cannon's mouth by Lord Exmouth, in the case of the one; and we believe that throughout the whole of the world, civilized or uncivilized, the influence of the British name, and the strength of her power, are sufficient of themselves, whenever they are exerted, to sweep away this blot from humanity, and cleanse the earth from the foulest stain that yet lingers on its surface!

ASIA.

Calcutta.—The fame of our illustrious Governor General has been re-echoed back to us from the throne, the Parliament, and the public press of England; and the representative of his sovereign, the companions of his hereditary honours and distinctions, and an admiring multitude of brave, generous, and intelligent compatriots, have all raised their voices to swell the triumph of his name. Is there a heart that remembers the touching joy and exultation with which His Lordship was greeted on his return to the capital, or that listened with surprise and admiration to the frank and magnanimous avowal of the motives of his conduct in his reply to the Address of the British inhabitants of Calcutta, that does not beat high with expectation at the approaching occasion of enjoying again a portion of the proudest feelings of which the human mind is susceptible?—We should think it impossible.

It is now nearly a year since his Lordship received that Address, and answered it by a luminous detail of the operations of the war in India, which he conducted in person. It was then that Englishmen and native Indians were alike called to witness a spectacle without a parallel in any period of history

—in any portion of the globe—the highest authority of a country whose government had been from time immemorial, sanguinary, rapacious, unjust, and despotic, throwing aside the mystery and superciliousness of high official station, and with the true dignity of a really patriotic English Nobleman, disdaining to shelter himself beneath the veil of rank and power, but drawing this aside, and condescending to meet his subjects face to face, when in the eloquent and impassioned language of independent integrity, yet with all the freedom and ease of familiar intercourse, he rendered an account of his glorious administration to the people over whom he ruled!

We have given to our friends, some of the most striking and satisfactory proofs of the impression which this unlooked-for and unusual candour, had made on all ranks and classes, on men of all parties and opinions at home. There is yet however one notice of this, in an English Paper now before us, in which the nature of the expose is coupled with a trait of character in the noble personage himself, that we think too valuable to be lost, and we add it, to enrich the value of our pages, and to delight, as we know it will do, the hearts of our friends.

"It will have been observed in our late Indian News" says this writer in a London Journal "that Addresses from various descriptions of persons have been presented to the Marquis of Hastings, all warmly applauding the wisdom, the energy, and the justice of his measures. That the British inhabitants of India should feel warmly and speak eloquently on such a subject, is not to be wondered at; but perhaps a still more valuable, because a less partial, testimonial is that afforded by the Address of the native inhabitants of Calcutta. If we mistake not, this is the first instance of the kind; and it tends strongly to confirm the remark, that "the present greatness of our Eastern Empire may reasonably be ascribed to a moral predominance, the predominance of civilisation over barbarism, science over ignorance, and justice over rapine." It is gratifying to find, that the minds of those who are subject to our sway begin to expand to the comprehension of this great truth, and that they look up to the exalted personage who directs our Government in that quarter of the globe with an admiration not unmingled with love.

"A trait in the princely generosity of the Noble Marquis's character deserves to be known. As Commander in Chief, he became entitled to a very large share of the rich booty acquired in the late campaign. No one could in his military character possess a fairer title to this property; for the Marquis both planned and directed the whole war in its general outline, and almost in its minutest details: he took the field in person; he met the most alarming contingencies with coolness and promptitude; he kept the whole machine in regulating and equable movement, accelerating or restraining, as occasion required, the daily movements of the separate detachments. If, under such circumstances, Lord Hastings had declined to suffer the allotment of his legal share to be made, he would perhaps have compromised the rights of his successors in command.

"Accordingly, the Noble Marquis directed the usual division of the booty to be made: but reflecting that he had in his own person united the supreme civil and military authority—that as Governor General, he had resolved upon the war, which, as Commander in Chief, he had directed—a feeling of personal delicacy precluded him from benefiting by this great accession of fortune. He was unwilling that even those who in the present or in future times might be most ignorant of his real character, should ever have the slightest ground to suspect that his public measures could have been in any degree affected by his private interest; and he therefore most magnanimously threw the whole of his share into the portion of the subalterns and privates!"

If the detail of his Lordship's motives and actions first drew forth from us a delight, that was afterwards spread over every

portion of the British empire, abroad and at home, with a rapidity proportioned to its welcome, like the cheering sounds of victory and triumph which fly from camp to camp even faster than the wings of heaven could waft them; and if these sounds of exultation have been since re-echoed back to us, ennobled by the applause of thrones and crowded senates with which they return mingled, every heart must beat responsive to their tone.

For such hearts, to-day will be a day of triumph. The Address from the Inhabitants of Madras, which though it comes at this late hour was not retarded by the backwardness of those with whom it originated (as the history of its delay, already before our readers, will amply testify)—is to be presented to the Governor General at 10 o'clock by Captain Blacker of the Madras Army, who has been deputed to fulfil that honorable and gratifying task.

Every Englishman who remembers the former occasion, will unquestionably be present at this; and that distinguished portion of creation, for whom we extend our empire abroad and guard our hearths and altars at home, while they feel and know that to the truly noble and the brave their smiles and sympathies are the brightest portion of all human triumphs, will have an additional cause of congratulation in their being able to mingle with their tribute of admiration to heroism and public virtue, the softer greetings that belong to that conjugal delight, with which Providence and the affections of his illustrious Consort has since increased the happiness of the distinguished Ruler of these realms!

Marine Registry Office.

Among the existing abuses of Public Institutions that we have from time to time brought to the notice of the Indian Public, we have hitherto omitted to mention those of the Establishment above named, until we were possessed, as in other instances, with unanswerable facts, on which to ground our observations.

The history of this Institution, and the objects contemplated by its foundation, are too well known to that portion of our readers for whom the consideration of the question will possess any interest, to need repetition here. It will suffice to say that the alarming evil of repeated losses by fire, supposed to have been committed by native crews, for the purpose of terminating their engagements and escaping with the money advanced to them, without the performance of an equivalent service, was the leading motive; and this was strengthened by a consideration of the vexatious delays experienced in getting crews through a class of people called Ghaut Serangs, who monopolized the supply to themselves; as well as the supposed injustice done to the lascars by these purveyors, in cheating them out of a large portion of their wages.

The distinguished individuals who were actuated by a desire to remedy evils of this nature in establishing the Institution in question, were entitled to the thanks of the maritime and mercantile community for the efforts thus made to advance their interests; and of the friends of humanity generally for including within their liberal and enlightened views the amelioration of the condition of a valuable and numerous class of our native subjects in India.

Benevolent as the motives of the undertaking were, the principles which were to regulate it were unquestionably erroneous. The doctrines of political economy are now too generally known and understood, to render long arguments necessary to prove the impolicy of fettering so variable a commodity as human labour. Like all other contributions to the stock of general profit, this can only be entitled to a certain share; and must be proportioned to the skill of the labourer, the nature of his employment, and the profits resulting from his labours to the capital which they are intended to improve.

At the time the standard of wages for the seamen of the Port of Calcutta was fixed by the Ordinance that created this Marine Institution in 1816, the commerce of the port was extensive and flourishing—the freights high—the returns quick—and all consequently equal to the payment of good wages to every one concerned. But when the highest standard of the most prosperous times was fixed on, the error was in decreeing it to be perpetual.

A period soon arrived when instead of an extensive and flourishing trade, half the ships of the port were laid up, and the other half engaged in desperate voyages, where from the low state of freights, the utmost profit that could be realized, if all went on smoothly, would be small; while the chance of failure, and the risk of total loss were as great as ever.

The wages of the commanders and officers, which being unlimited by law, might be regulated according to the just and natural standard of supply and demand—of the numbers seeking employment and the capacity of a ship's gains to pay them—were considerably reduced, though still not in the proportion that freight, which by the English law is emphatically called "the mother of wages," had declined. But the wages of the seamen, which as we before remarked, were fixed according to the highest standard of the most prosperous times, remained exactly the same, and could not be altered;—because in the 2d Clause of the Ordinance establishing this Institution, after the rate of wages is fixed and determined on, it is added,

"II.—If any Captain, Commander, or Owner of any Ship or Vessel navigating to or from the Port of Calcutta, or their Agents or any Person whatsoever, whether employed by the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, or others, shall pay or cause to be paid or contract to pay on account of wages to such persons as are described in the said Table, and shall be hired at Calcutta, a greater or less sum than the sums thereby directed to be paid, unless as aforesaid, he or they shall severally forfeit for every person to whom he or they shall pay or contract to pay such greater or lesser wages than herein before described, the sum of two hundred Sicca Rupees."

The extreme hardship, not to say injustice of thus establishing rates, which, from the natural fluctuation of commerce, could not remain always equitable, and then fixing heavy penalties for the slightest deviation from them, pressed so heavily on the mercantile and maritime classes for whose benefit it was intended, that a body of twenty-one of the principal commanders and owners of the port, who combined in themselves the interests of this double capacity, and were therefore best able to judge of its ruinous effects, presented a Petition or an Address to the Secretary of the Institution, respectfully stating the grievances of which they complained, and praying for redress.

We have been furnished, by one of the gentlemen whose signature it bears, with an attested copy of this Address from the Office, and as it will speak forcibly on the subject, we give it literally as follows:—

To R. B. LLOYD, Esq.

Secretary to the Committee of the

Sir,

Marine Registry Office, &c. &c.

We, the Undersigned, connected intimately with the shipping interests of this port, and depending on their prosperity for our success in life, have to request that you will have the goodness to submit for the consideration of the Committee of the Marine Registry Office the following observations respecting the pay of native petty officers and seamen, during the present very dull state of the country trade.

In the account of a country ship's expences, the sum appropriated to the payment of gunners, sookannies, and lascars, has always formed a very considerable item; yet in prosperous times, when commerce was brisk, and abundance of freight to be procured at rates comparatively handsome, the magnitude of this expence was never regarded by the owner, as it could well be spared from the profits of the voyage. Now, however, the case is widely different, many ships are laid up from their inability of procuring freight, and where freights are procurable it is generally on such terms as to prevent the owners from calculating much on profits from the voyage, while loss is almost certain, if adverse circumstances should happen to prolong it beyond the estimated time.

In this state of things, necessity has led to the reduction of pay allotted to commanders and officers, and we can safely leave it to the judgement of the Committee to determine whether the same necessity does not also suggest a reduction of the pay now given to petty officers and lascars. In both cases it is painful to think of adopting such a measure; but the plain question is, Whether the country trade, depressed as it now is, is to sink under the burden of its present charges, or to have these charges lessened so as to favor the return of prosperity?

Gunners and carpenters have perhaps rates of pay more disproportioned than any other classes to the duties they have to perform. The former have nothing to find, have little or no responsibility and less manual labour than any other on board; the carpenters have indeed a few tools to find, of which they make little use, (fortunately perhaps as they are seldom competent to the task) although their pay is nearly double that of an European carpenter, who keeps his watch, and is an efficient hand aloft, when occasion requires it.

It is almost needless to mention the advantage that is given over country ships to vessels of every other description by the present scale of wages. Since the return of peace to Europe, the wages of seamen, all over the world, except in the country trade of India, have been reduced more than one-half. The free trader sails therefore at an easy rate, compared with the country ship, having only to carry five men and one boy for every hundred tons; a man's wages being thirty-five shillings per month, and boys fifteen or twenty shillings; whereas the country ship has to carry twelve men for every hundred tons, at the present rate of wages.

We propose not to state the degree of reduction that we should judge expedient, leaving that more properly to the determination of the Committee. We beg, however, to urge their attention to the subject, as one of serious importance. The general loss at present experienced on shipping may be borne by owners, who are otherwise flourishing in their circumstances; but what must be the prospect of the less opulent owner, whose whole dependence is on the scanty and hard-earned capital that he finds wasting away under the pressure of accumulated charges, while his receipts are both lessened and precarious. He may perhaps venture to look forward to better days, but it is his duty in the meantime to aim at every species of economy, as long as he can contrive to follow his industrious pursuits, in order to save himself from utter ruin, and the community in general from participating in his loss.

We are, Sir, your very obedient servants,

(Signed)

W. Black.	R. Allan.	J. Pearson.
W. Hammon.	G. Brown.	C. A. Harris.
F. Hamilton.	M. O'Brien.	D. Inverarity.
F. Balston.	W. A. Raper.	J. Edwards.
J. Kilpatrick.	J. Bean.	H. Elliott.
R. Dennison.	P. Falconer.	C. Goldsbury.
J. Neish.	W. Skitter.	J. B. Brown.

(A true Copy.)

GEO. ROWLAND.

This Letter needs no comment, though the history of its fate, after being presented to the Office, deserves a word or two.

The attested copy furnished from the Office to our Friend, who is one of the parties that signed it, is without a date, whether intentionally or not, we cannot say, but this gentleman assures us that it was presented at the Office eight or nine months ago, and that no answer has ever been returned to it! There are some who venture to say that it was never even laid before the Committee by the Secretary, and thereby exonerate them from a seemingly unjustifiable inattention to the wishes of respectable men, who were aggrieved by their regulations, and respectfully solicited redress. But whether the fault lay in the Secretary's not presenting it, or in the Committee's not attending to it, is a question of minor consideration, and can only affect those who fill these respective departments personally. Our object is not disrespect towards them individually, but simply to shew that the Institution itself has entirely failed in procuring for the mercantile and maritime community the benefits expected.

The address presented, is of itself sufficient to prove this; but when to this is added the fact of its lying on the shelf of the Office for eight or nine months unheeded and unanswered, there is no other alternative than either to suppose that the evils it represented were too unanswerably true to be refuted and that therefore they were silent; or that the unalterable nature of the laws of this Institution, like those of the Medes and Persians, admitted of no relaxation from their severity, or adaptation to time and circumstance, and that therefore the law givers held their peace. At all events, however, it would have been both becoming and benevolent in the efficient organ of this Institution, when he received from a body of men all equally respectable with himself and from whose contributions the Institution itself was maintained, a Petition couched in the most respectful terms, and presented through the regular channel, not to have insulted them by a contemptuous or a heedless silence during a period in which he had received a salary of nearly ten thousand rupees of their own hard-earned money.

We are aware that we shall be accused of personality in this, as we have been in every other instance in which we have fearlessly brought to light that which had been stifled and smothered in half whispered and timid reproaches, which men were found to utter in a corner, but which no one dared boldly to express his opinions on in public. A guardian of the public rights, who is to be driven from his post by such a phantom as the mere fear of personal displeasure, is unworthy of his station. He should have neither friends, whose delinquencies he would screen, from partiality; nor enemies, whose virtues he would obscure by prejudice or passion; he should know no distinctions but those of truth, and falsehood—justice, and iniquity.

In every other country except India, it is held possible however to discuss the merits of a public question without either meaning or giving personal offence to the public characters involved in it; and nothing is more common in our own liberal and enlightened land, than to see friendships maintained, and personal esteem engendered, between those who differ widely on the broad questions of policy that so constantly arise for public discussion; and one might there deprecate the management of any public establishment, without knowing or indeed asking who was at the head of it; since persons cannot alter facts, and these, to be judged of fairly, should be divested of all personal influence or consideration whatever.

If a people are still so far buried in their ancient prejudices, as to think otherwise, there must then, among them at least, be either an end of all public spirit or of private har-

mony when the exercise of the former is necessarily found to involve the interruption of the latter. Whether the society of British India are still in that state, we shall not presume to determine. We love peace and harmony, as much as any member of it can, but we are satisfied that this blessing is best secured by a rigid performance and a faithful discharge of duty on the part of every individual in his station. To those therefore who may feel offence at the want of courtesy in our strictures, we can only say that our object is the *public good*, and that whatever in private life does not contribute to that great end of all civilized society, is neither virtuous nor honorable.

Manetho and Memnon.

(With reference to a Letter under the signature of the former in the *Calcutta Journal* of the 27th of June, on the subject of the *Desatreer*, and another under signature of the latter in the *Government Gazette* of the 1st of July.)

To the Editor of the *Calcutta Journal*.

SIR,

To be noticed by any of the writers, whose compositions are admitted into the *Government Gazette*, is an honour to which I am so little accustomed, that I scarcely know in what manner to offer my respects to my countryman, MEMNON, whose Letter adorns the highly interesting columns of a late number of that valuable Paper. I accept with pleasure the tribute which, with such sincerity, he pays to my "talents and ingenuity," and shall endeavour still farther to advance in his esteem by proving, before I finish, the extent to which his writings enable me to return the flattering compliment.

The perspicacity of MEMNON is indisputable; yet, probably owing to a late attack of *Egyptian ophthalmia*, his vision appears somewhat defective; for he stumbles at the outset, and intimates that I have an intention to support the authenticity, i. e. antiquity, of the *Desatreer*, an inference rather unaccountably drawn from a Letter which unequivocally declares the opinion of the writer to be, that he does not reckon its antiquity of higher date than five or six centuries from the present period. MEMNON, however, notwithstanding the laboured critique published in the *Government Gazette*, still deems this matter undetermined, and I therefore wave all further consideration of its merits for the present, and proceed to the subject more immediately in view, by offering a few remarks upon his supereminently witty and satisfactory communication.

It seems I am in error respecting the signification of the word *Gayatri*, which according to the sweeping and infallible authority of this profound scholar, consists of *Gaya*, "a chaunter or reciter" and *Tri*, "servatrix or protectress." If this be the fact, it will devolve upon MEMNON, to satisfy us in regard to the reason of Sir William Jones, whose intimate acquaintance with common Sanscrit cannot be questioned, having discovered in this compound a meaning equivalent to "the mother of the Vedas;" and which is also the meaning attached to the expression by the Hindoos both of the upper and lower provinces.

In the simplicity of my ignorance, I believed the word to be a *mystical*, but *modern*, appellation, formed of the common vocable *Gaya* "a cow," and *Ottar* "essence, or concentrated fragrance;" and therefore metaphorically and enigmatically applied to the ethereal essence or spirit, supposed to vivify the earth, symbolised by the mythological cow, who in the ideas of these ignorant idolaters is esteemed the mother of all created objects whatsoever.

This luminous discovery is not the only excellence we are called upon to admire in the researches of MEMNON; and we ought more especially to applaud his novel invention in gram-

mar, by means of which, comprehending a rule hereafter to be denominated *Hermaphrodite*, he contrives to unite a word in the masculine, with strict grammatical correctness, to another in the feminine gender. By this admirable contrivance he astounds the illiterate, and manages to afford a perspicuous compound appellation, replete with the meaning which is discoverable in the elegant and significant phrase "*a chamber-protectress*." His derivation of *atri* from *atris*, or a *trice*, is scarcely less ingenious, and I shall humbly attempt following the hint so far, as to look for the signification of *Gaya Bloodh*, the name of the celebrated place of worship in the province of Behar, in the whistle of a *bag pipe*; and *Boodh*, as the remark is pointed, in *bod* the first syllable of *bodkin*; while *tri* being spelled *tree*, readily presents itself in the latin *arbor*.

Ingenious, and conclusive, as such reasoning and speculations are, it becomes unfortunately necessary to bring MEMNON acquainted with a trifling circumstance to which he seems to have directed no part of his attention, while it is essentially connected with the establishment of the argument. The question is not exactly limited to a determination of the meaning of the word *Gayetri*, or the innumerable puns into which the syllables composing the appellation may be tortured, and the quibbling senses in which their signification may be received; but whether this text of the *Vedas*, as given by Sir William Jones be, as stated in my former Letter, a translation, or plagiarism, of a sentence in the *Koran*.

This question MEMNON has, with some dexterity, contrived under a shew of learning to evade, something like a skuttle fish, who first pours forth a volley of *ink* and then manages to escape in the obscurity. It may be urged that this argument is a wide deviation from the original subject, the authenticity of the *Desateer*; yet its solution may serve to afford the Public a few data, by which they may correctly hereafter estimate the pretensions of those writers, in Calcutta, who boldly vault into the throne of literary supremacy, and doom, with an irrevocable fiat, to the gulphs of critical *Tartarus*, every unfortunate wight, Author or Editor, whose miserable fate it is to be summoned to the bar of their unappealable decision.

Your obedient servant,

MANETHO.

July 9, 1819.

Stubborn Facts.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

As the theory so warmly advocated by Dr. Tytler, assigning the poisonous qualities of certain rice as the cause of the prevailing Epidemic, is still maintained by that gentleman; his opponents, finding him not to be put down by any evidence, they have yet adduced to prove his opinions wrong, (though he has more frequently been opposed by anonymous writers than by men who had the interests of the community or the honor of their profession sufficiently at heart to add the weight of their names and professional reputation to the arguments adduced against this theory); they have of late, it would appear, resorted to the childish, inefficacious, and unmanly mode of creating fictitious reports, to call him forth, as it is said, and oblige him to commit himself by drawing inferences from false facts.—This is indeed but a poor triumph, and even if the stratagem had succeeded, is hardly to be purchased at the risk of such alarm as the fictions in question were calculated, if they had passed unnoticed and unproved, to have created in the minds of all those who possessed friends or relatives in a country, still too unhappily subject to this pestilence in reality to have its horrors increased by unfeeling falsehoods.

Though I do not profess to espouse either the cause of the one party or the other, I cannot but express my opinion that it is as fair a subject for medical investigation and medical discussion as any other; and that if Dr. Tytler is wrong, he should be proved to be so, by men who could oppose equal science and reputation to his own, under their real names. The cause must be weak indeed, if no medical men are to be found willing to enter the lists against this gentleman, and state their name and reputation in defence of a system which they privately and anonymously decry as visionary and absurd.

Levy is above all most assuredly misplaced; and he who can be depraved enough to laugh at the alarming mortality that has swept away the fairest flowers of the British community in India, and agonised the bleeding hearts of parents, kindred, and friends, who have been deprived by its ravages of all the world held dear to them, must be dead to the social feelings of humanity; and would deserve execration rather than mourning, when it may be his fatal turn to become the victim, and follow those, with whose fate he has so unfeelingly sported, to the grave!

There can however be no difference of opinion on this subject in the minds of feeling and honorable men, to say nothing of religious and moral influence; so that I proceed to the main object of my Letter, which was to show you, that notwithstanding the opposition which the Rice theory, as it is called, has experienced, there are still some curious facts, which prove at least that Rice has not been altogether inactive on the occasion, and that if not the sole cause, it might have materially assisted in the generation of the disease.

We have lately understood from the public prints of Europe, that a severe mortality prevailed on board His Majesty's ships of war at St. Helena; and the following extract regarding it, is copied from the *London Times*, dated November 16, 1818, purporting to be an Article from St. Helena, dated September 28, 1818, as follows:—

"No ships are allowed to remain here longer than is absolutely necessary; all supplies come from the Cape, but they are very scanty, and what fresh meat is afforded from this channel is wholly engrossed by the troops; the ships never get a meal of it; and during the last five months they have had only one third bread, no cocoa, and no pease; the deficiency is wholly made up of Rice. Dysentery, consequently prevails much; and all the vessels have lost many men; the *Musquito* has lost about twenty-three in three months, and the *Conqueror* has scarcely seamen enough on board to work the ship."

Here is a plain fact which may be proved or contradicted, but which is surely neither a subject of merriment nor to be set aside by a laugh. The cause of the mortality lately existing on board His Majesty's vessels at Bombay, might not improbably have sprung from the same source, and their good have participated in the same degree of the noxious qualities of that here mentioned, since we all know to what changes vegetable productions are liable, and who shall restrict its limits?

At all events, these facts are worthy of being preserved on record; and if, as in all other diseases of the human system, it is only by an accumulation of facts, a long experience in the observation of them, and the consequent treatment of the subject, that men can arrive at truth; are the same steps no longer necessary in this? or is a disease, more sudden and rapid in its progress, and more fatal in its termination than almost any other scourge with which humanity has been afflicted throughout the globe, since the plagues of Egypt, to be suspended by a flimsy attempt at wit? to be cured by a ridiculous and empty laugh? or the survivors of those who have fallen victims to it, to have their tears dried up and their agonised bosoms tranquillized by taunts and sneers, and unmeaning and unfeeling ribaldry?

Forbid it, Heaven! Let not the dignity of men and Britons be tarnished by so foul a stain!

Lucknow, July 14, 1819.

ÆQUITAS.

Military.

General Orders, by the Commander in Chief, Head-quarters, Calcutta, July 21, 1819.

His Majesty's 11th Dragoons is to proceed to Cawnpore in two Divisions; the first Division will embark on the 26th Instant, and the second Division on the 1st Proximo: Lieutenant Blundell with half the 3d Company 3d Volunteer Battalion will accompany the 1st Division and act as Interpreter to the Commanding Officer, and Captain Shadwell with the remainder of his Company will proceed in the same capacity with the 2d Division. The Officer Commanding each Division will transmit a Weekly State to the Adjutant General of the Army during his progress to Cawnpore. Major-General Wood, Commanding at the Presidency, will issue such subsidiary orders as may be necessary to give effect to the foregoing arrangement.

Lieutenant Fraser, doing duty with the 1st Battalion 20th Regiment, is directed to join the 1st Battalion 23d Regiment, to which he stands posted.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence:

Captain Presgrave, 1st Battalion 26th Regiment, in extension, to enable him to rejoin, from the 31st of August to the 31st of October.

Ensign Sinclair, European Regiment, on Medical Certificate to visit the Presidency, in order to go to Sea, from the 15th of July, to the 15th of September.

Head-quarters, Calcutta, July 22, 1819.

The leave of absence granted in General Orders of the 12th of June to Lieutenant Mactier, of the 4th Regiment Light Cavalry, is cancelled at that Officer's request.

Major Thomson's appointment of Lieutenant B. Roxburgh to act as Quarter Master to the 6th Regiment Light Cavalry, during the absence, on leave, of Lieutenant Anstruther, is confirmed.

JAS. NICOL, Adj. Genl. of the Army.

BOMBAY GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

General Orders, by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Bombay Castle, May 31, 1819.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to publish the following Extract (Paras. 52d and 54th) of a letter from the Honorable Court of Directors, dated the 14th of October 1818, together with their Orders of the 1st February 1818, to the Government at Fort Saint George, alluded to in those Paragraphs.

Extract of a letter from the Honorable the Court of Directors, in the Military Department, dated the 14th of October 1818.

30th. Court's Orders. PARA. 53d. With a view to affording encouragement to our Officers to acquire an adequate knowledge of the Hindoostanee language, which may be called the camp language of India, as well as the vernacular language of a large portion of its Inhabitants; with a view also to the correct administration of Justice in Military Courts, and to the safe custody and repair of Regimental Arms and Stores; we in our Military letter to Fort Saint George, dated 4th February 1818, (Paras. 75 a 83) authorized the appointment of a Quarter Master and Interpreter in each Regiment of Native Cavalry and in each Battalion of Native Infantry, for the same purposes as such appointments had been previously made and sanctioned in Bengal.

54th. We transmit a No. in the Packet, and a copy of those Paragraphs, with a view to the introduction of similar arrangements at your Presidency.

Extract of a Military letter to Fort Saint George, dated 4th February, 1818.

Letter dated 7th October 1815, 26th and 27th. Court's attention requested to communications from the Commander in Chief and the President of the Committee for examining students, stating the necessity of continuing the rewards for the attainment of Native languages, and which has been authorized until their further orders are received.

PARA. 275. We have maturely considered the observations of the Commander in Chief and your own, respecting the advantages which the public service is likely to derive from a continuation of that encouragement to the study of the Hindoostanee and Persian languages, which was formerly held out to the Officers of your Presidency, but directed by us to be discontinued in our letter in this Department of the 27th July, 1814, (Paragraph 2d).

276th. We are of opinion after mature deliberation, that the best mode of combining the encouragement of a knowledge of those languages with other objects of a public importance, will be the adoption of the system which prevails in Bengal.

277th. We therefore authorize and direct you to appoint a Subaltern Officer in each Battalion of Native Infantry, to be Interpreter of the Hindoostanee language to that Battalion, who is also to perform the duties of Quarter Master of the Battalion with the same Staff Salary, as we, in our Military letter of the 5th May, 1815, fixed for the Adjutants of Native Battalion, that is,

Staff pay per Month,	Arcot Rupees	62
Moonshee and Stationery,		40
A Horse,		30

Total per Month, Arcot Rupees 132

278th. It will be the duty of the Interpreter and Quarter Master to officiate as Interpreter of Hindoostanee, not only to all Courts Martial which may be held in the Battalion to which he belongs, but to any other Court Martial at which he may be directed to officiate, without any further charge, or expense to the Company for such service, and generally to render all the services, which as an Interpreter he may at any time be called upon to perform.

279th. It will also be his duty to act as Quarter Master of his Battalion and to perform all those duties which are usually performed by the Quarter Masters of other Corps in your Army.

280th. We rely upon your care and vigilance that no officer be selected for the important situation of Interpreter, who is not fully qualified to perform all the duties of it, especially the serious and responsible duties of Interpreter to Courts Martial.

281st. We take this opportunity to recall to your recollection our Orders to Bombay as contained in our Military letter to that Government, dated 17th January 1810, copy of which was transmitted to you, as equally applicable to your Presidency, with our Military letter of the 23d January, 1811. "We are decidedly of opinion that no officer should be appointed to any staff situation whatever, unless he has previously acquired a knowledge of the Hindoostanee language, which is the vernacular language of Hindoostan, and more or less spoken and understood throughout the Deccan; the means of acquiring this language are now much facilitated, and it is so obviously both the duty and the interest of all our servants, at all the presidencies, to obtain a knowledge of it, that we desire you will hereafter consider a competent acquaintance with it, to be an indispensable qualification in every candidate for a staff appointment.

282d. With respect to your Regiments of Native Cavalry, we direct that the Quarter Master of each Regiment of Native Cavalry, perform also the duty of Interpreter of Hindoostanee to his corps, with an allowance of thirty (30) Arcot Rupees a month for a Moonshee.

283d. The Commander in Chief will take care that no officer be hereafter appointed to the situation of Quarter Master of Cavalry, who is not duly qualified to act as Interpreter also, and in the mean time the allowance of thirty Rupees a month is only to be passed to such Quarter Masters of Cavalry as shall establish to the satisfaction of the Commander in Chief that they "are qualified to act as Interpreters."

In pursuance of the Honorable Court's Orders, the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the designation of the officers at present holding the situation of Linguist in the several Battalions of Native Infantry and Regiments of Cavalry, be changed to that of Interpreter, and that they be ordered to assume the duties of Quarter Master as specified in the Honorable Court's dispatch, from the 1st June, the office being united with that of Adjutant in the instance of Lieutenant Black, who is at present Linguist to the 1st Battalion 11th Regiment Native Infantry; but no Adjutant will hereafter be permitted to hold both situations.

As a knowledge of the Mahratta language by officers belonging to the Native corps on this side of India would be attended with great advantage to the public service, the Governor in Council, in order to hold forth encouragement to them to acquire a knowledge of that language as well as of the Hindoostanee, is pleased so far to modify the orders of the Honorable Court, as to substitute for the staff pay of sixty-two (62) Rupees fixed in their letter to Madras, the allowances now drawn under the Government orders of the 11th April, viz (50) fifty Rupees for Interpreters in Hindoostanee, and eighty (80) Rupees for Interpreters in Hindoostanee and Mahratta.

The existing Regulations that Linguists shall be publicly examined as to their knowledge, by a committee assembled by order of the Commander in Chief is to be enforced with the utmost exactness, and whenever the public service will admit, the candidates are to be examined at the presidency.

Domestic Occurrences.

MARRIAGES.

July 23. At the Cathedral, by the Reverend Mr. Parson, J. P. Reynolds, Esq. Assistant Surgeon, H. M. 59th Foot, to Miss Jane Middleton.

BIRTHS.

June 27. At Pondicherry, the Lady of L. Fonclair, Esq. of a Daughter.

29. At Madras, the Lady of Lieutenant Fullerton, of the Engineers, of a Daughter.

DEATHS.

On the 20th instant, at Calcutta, in the House of Mr. George Adie, of the Spasmodic Cholera, Mr. John Xavier, aged 35 years; deeply regretted.

On the 17th of June, at Masulipatam, William Smith, Esq. Assistant Surgeon, attached to the Civil Department of that station. In the death of this worthy and respectable young man, the settlement to which he belonged has suffered a serious loss; and the service a man whose professional abilities and natural inclination to devote them to the benefit of his fellow creatures, spurning the idea of all sordid considerations, would early have placed him equally eminent in public estimation, as he stood high in private opinion.

He was taken suddenly ill about 8 o'clock in the evening of the 16th ultimo, after retiring, apparently in perfect health, at an early hour from a party of friends, and without exhibiting any violent symptoms of the disease, which resisted from an early stage of it every effort of medical skill to remove its baneful effects, appearing to have seized on its victim with a determined purpose to destroy him; he expired at 9 o'clock the next morning, too fatally prejudging his unhappy end. His remains were conveyed to the grave by a numerous assemblage of friends, who, truly as they had esteemed him in life, has sincerely lamented his untimely death.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

July.	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders.	From whence	Left
23	Cornwallis	British	S. Brown	Singapore	June 23
23	March. of Wellesley	British	J. T. Ricketts	Singapore	June 22

Passengers.

Passengers arrived at Calcutta on the James Scott.

Mrs. Bunbury and four Children; Mrs. Darling and Child; Captain J. Smith; Lieutenant Bunbury; Lieutenant Campbell; Mr. Wilkinson, Surgeon; Mr. Henderson, Surgeon; 357 Sepoys and Followers of the 1st Battalion 20th Native Infantry.

Passengers arrived at Madras on the brig Nelly.

C. Muidman, Esq. Senior Merchant; H. Oakes, Esq. Senior Merchant; Capt. Hatherly and Child; J. Hudson, Esq.; Mr. A. Frushard.

Nautical Notices.

In a Letter from Penang, dated the 18th of June, we observe that a small vessel had arrived at that place on the preceding day from Singapore. She brought accounts of the *Indiana*, *Cornwallis*, *Mary Anne*, and *Marchioness of Wellesley*, being at Singapore, where every person was engaged in landing and mounting the heavy ordnance, sent from Penang, for its garrison, consisting of three 24-pounders, and twelve 18-pounders, with abundance of ammunition and warlike stores. After this duty had been performed, the ships named were expected to return to Penang with the remainder of the 1st Battalion of the 20th, that had been at Bencoolen.

Accounts from this quarter state also that the ship *Race Horse*, of Calcutta, had been attacked near Rhio by Malay Pirates, but had succeeded in beating them off and arrived safe at Batavia.

The ship *Marchioness of Wellesley*, Captain Ricketts, spoke the ships *Lord Minto* and *Union* on the Coast of Pedier.

The ship *Alexander*, Captain Rogers, left at Bussorah the ships *Volunteer*, Governor Petrie, Francis Warden, and *Sophia*—and at Madras the *General Kyd*, *Minerva*, *Windsor*, *Nestor*, and *Lord Wellington*.

The *Resource*, on her passage hence, experienced a severe gale from the south-westward, on the 17th and 18th instant; but received no injury.

The *Brig Nelly*, from Port Louis the 26th of May, arrived at Madras on the 2d of July, and was in company with the *H. C. Ship General Hewitt*, during the gale in which she lost her rudder. Her accounts describe the gale to have been most dreadful; for nearly twelve hours the wind blew all round the compass with the violence of the most furious hurricane. During seven hours the Commander of the *Nelly* expected her to go down every moment. By great good fortune, however, both vessels weathered the gale. The damages of the *General Hewitt* were extensive, and it was expected she would be detained on that account at Port Louis for a month at least.

The following vessels, belonging to this port, were at Port Louis on the 22d of June:—*Woodbridge*, *Munnings*; *Liverpool*, *Green*; *Edward Strettell*, *Balston*; *Hayston*, *Sartorius*; *Dolphin*, *Coucher*; *Margaret*, *Griffiths*.

The *Traveller*, Captain Hutchinson, from Bombay, reached Port Louis on the 24th of April, and sailed for London the following day; the *Camden*, Captain Johnson, on the 4th of May; the *Thalia*, Captain Herbert, on the 14th of May—and the *Ocean*, Captain Hammet, on the 16th of May.

The Transport ship *George Osborne*, Captain Tamlin, from Cork and the Cape, reached Port Louis on the 15th of June, having on board part of the 82d Regiment.

Commercial Reports.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Under the head of Mauritius, you quote a Government Notification that Rice was being disposed of at a credit of six months, at the rate of 4 dollars and 90 cents per bag of 150lbs.

The Editor of the *Hurkaru*, in his production of the 22d instant, gravely informs his readers that trade at the Mauritius was very dull; but that Rice, however, was *disposable* at 42 dollars per bag. There is no fear, certainly, that any of his readers would be misled by such a statement, although it does most certainly prove the little care that he takes in giving them correct information.

I imagine, however, that the rate at which the Government at Mauritius were retailing the Rice, must have been at 3 dollars and 90 cents, and not at 4 dollars and 90 cents; as a proof of which, I beg to send you extracts from some late letters just received.

"Rice is daily falling lower and lower; a few months since it was at 5 dollars—but Government having about 20,000 bags in store, and fearful of more arriving from Bengal and Batavia, are retailing it at 4 dollars per bag; the cargoes, therefore, commissioned from hence, instead of giving a profit, will prove a considerable loss: so much for the protection of our commerce."

Government have been drawing bills on Calcutta for *cash*, at a premium of 4 per cent. The scarcity of specie, however, is so great, that 21 and 22 per cent have been paid for it; consequently this mode of remittance is a loss of 26 to 27 per cent, and those are fortunate even who can procure them."

Your obedient servant,

Calcutta, July 23.

A SUBSCRIBER.

CURRENT VALUE OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

BUY	JULY 1819.	SELL
0 Ru. 10 As. }	Six per Cent Loan Promissory Notes.	30 Ru. 14 As.

Printed at the Union Press, in Garstin's Buildings, near the Bankhall and the Exchange.

1871

VI. 203

Illustration of a person riding a bicycle with a large umbrella.



Illustration of a landscape with mountains and a body of water.



Illustration of a landscape with mountains and a body of water.

Patent Accelerator



Sketch of Pitcairns Island



Engraved for the Calcutta Journal